

Grassroots Bullet Points

What do we tell them?

Pass a multi-year highway bill **NOW!**

- Our businesses are at stake!
- Our jobs are at stake!
- Infrastructure investment is an investment in our future.
- Infrastructure investment quickly stimulates both employment and economic growth.

We know how to fund it – namely with **an increase in the federal motor fuels tax!**

- Two congressionally appointed commissions have concluded that the only viable mechanism to fund a transportation bill in the short to medium term is with an increase in the federal motor fuels tax.
- It can be done. The public will support infrastructure spending.
 - Six states raised motor fuels taxes for transportation in the last two years.
 - Another six states have such increases pending in the legislature.
 - Another nine states have raised transportation revenues in the last 2 years through other means (sales tax, registration, bonds, tolls, etc).
- This is **NOT** deficit spending. Fuel taxes are a pay-as-you-go USER FEE system. If you do not drive on our highway system, you do not pay.
- A 10 cent per gallon increase in the federal motor fuels tax (indexed) will allow us to fund a roughly \$450 billion multi-year transportation program.
- We cannot afford to wait. The Nation's Infrastructure Report Card gives our roads a grade of D-minus (ASCE 2009). This is not only wastes billions of dollars and billions of hours in lost time, it also costs lives.
- Difficult times require difficult decisions, and we need **your (i.e. member of congress) leadership** on this issue!

Closing Points:

“The surface transportation system of the United states is at a crossroads. The future of our Nation’s well-being, vitality, and global economic leadership is at stake. We must take significant, decisive action now to create and sustain the pre-eminent surface transportation system in the world.”

[NSTPRSC, 2007]

The quote above is taken from the introduction of the National Surface Transportation Policy and revenue Study Commission’s 2007 report to Congress. Almost three years have passed, and this has not yet been acted upon!!!?

Raising the federal motor fuels tax may seem like a political third rail, but it is what is needed in order to deliver the transportation authorization that this Nation deserves.

There are no easy answers – if there were, this would have been done already.

Taxes are never easy to raise, but we are talking about **user fees** that are **deficit neutral**.

The federal motor fuels tax has only been raised **four times** since the Federal Aid Highway program started in 1956. All four times, the tax increase was signed into law by fiscally conservative Presidents that saw it not so much as a tax increase, but as **an investment and a down payment on our future.**



(Eisenhower)



(Reagan)



(Bush)



(Clinton)

These leaders saw the value that our transportation system provides to **all** Americans.

THIS IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO FOR OUR COUNTRY!